GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:207
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2002
NATIONAL WATER POLICY
KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU;P.R. KHUTE

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether guidelines for sharing of rivers' water among the States are being reviewed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the new National Water Policy is likely to be announced and implemented ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF STARRED QUESTION No.207 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 18.03.2002 REGARDING NATIONAL WATER POLICY

Draft National Policy Guidelines for Water Allocation amongst States were considered by the National Water Resources Council (NWRC) in its 4th meeting held on 7th July, 2000. Divergent views were expressed by the members of the Council on the draft guidelines . It was decided by the NWRC that these guidelines be examined by the Working Group of Irrigation / Water Resources Ministers for achieving greater convergence and agreement and attaining a near consensus on the same.

Two meetings of the Working Group of the National Water Resources Council were held on 22nd May, 2001 and 24th September, 2001 under the Chairmanship of Minister of Water Resources wherein the views of the various States on the Draft National Water Policy and Draft National Policy Guidelines for Water Allocation amongst States were considered. While a near consensus was arrived at on the Draft National Water Policy, the States expressed divergent views on the Draft National Policy Guidelines for Water Allocation amongst States. In the second meeting of the Working Group held on 24th September, 2001, it was decided to recommend to NWRC to refer the Draft National Policy Guidelines for Water Allocation amongst States to the National Water Board of the NWRC for having a relook and arriving at a consensus. It was also decided to recommend for adoption of the Draft National Water Policy. Implementation of the new (revised) National Water Policy can be taken up only after its adoption by the NWRC.